

ARTICLE APPEARED
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BALTIMORE SUN
13 April 1984

Soviet defector tells of fishing spies

WASHINGTON (AP) — The captain of a Soviet fishing boat who defected nine years ago told a House subcommittee yesterday that part of his job had been to spy on American nuclear submarines off the New England coast.

Vladil Lysenko, who served more than 30 years on Soviet merchant and fishing ships, told the House merchant marine subcommittee that the Soviets treat merchant and fishing ships as part of their naval forces.

Mr. Lysenko, who defected to Sweden in 1975 and still lives there, testified through an interpreter that spying was a major part of his job when he fished on the Georges Bank

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VLADIL LYSENKO

off New England.

“My ship had special equipment for submarine tracking,” he said. He said the vessel was also equipped with special radio equipment that allowed him to relay information directly to Soviet naval intelligence headquarters.

His testimony came as the sub-

committee prepared to consider measures designed to improve the defense capabilities of the U.S. merchant fleet.

Mr. Lysenko said he had been awarded the Order of Lenin, a high Soviet decoration, for his intelligence work.

He said that Soviet merchant and fishing vessels are built so guns can be mounted on them quickly in time of war and that all Soviet merchant officers receive naval training, hold commissions as naval officers and must serve regular active-duty tours.

“I myself sometimes served as a regular captain in the Soviet navy,” Mr. Lysenko said.